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May 19, 2020

Hon. Ronald Batory
Federal Railroad Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: East Aurora, NY train derailment investigation must be thorough,
transparent, and conducted in a timely manner.**

Dear Mr. Batory:

Last night, a freight train operated by a subsidiary of the Genesee and Wyoming railroad derailed in the Village of East Aurora, NY. While no injuries were reported and no structures in the village were damaged, several dozen residents and homeowners were forced into evacuation, given that the train had been conveying mixed cargo including petrochemicals.

I write today to express the clear expectation that the investigation into this derailment should be thorough, transparent and conducted in a timely manner. Residents who live in proximity to America's freight railroads have the right to expect an appropriate level of federal oversight to ensure that the requisite capital investments are being made and that safety protocols are being observed. Transparency here will be key, as residents have a right to know what went wrong -- why a neighborhood was forced to evacuate, and what corrective steps are being taken to prevent an occurrence like this from happening in the future.

Thank you very much for your agency's work to foster a robust, safe and efficient freight rail system in the United States.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress